SENATE FISH AND GAME.

EXHIBIT NO. 5

BATE 3-05-13

BHA NO. HB 179

House Bill 179 March 5, 2013 Presented by Paul Sihler Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Paul Sihler, Administrator of the Field Services Division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here today on behalf of the Director to provide information for House Bill 179.

Currently veterans who meet the qualifications of a Permit to Hunt from a Vehicle as a result of a combat-connected injury may receive Deer A, Deer B, or Antelope license for half price. HB 179 would allow disabled members of the armed forces with a combat-connected injury to receive half priced licenses also.

In 2012 the Department issued 14 Deer A, 3 Deer B, and 10 Antelope license to disabled veterans. The Department does not foresee any major changes to the number of licenses issued with the passage of HB 179. The current law caps the number of each license issued under this statute at 50.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.